A Bibliography of the White Whale, *Delphinapterus leucas.*

Thomas G. Smith and Michael O. Hammill

Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Arctic Biological Station
555 St. Pierre Blvd.
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Québec

May 1990

Canadian Manuscript Report of
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
No. 2060

Rapport manuscrit canadien des sciences halieutiques et aquatiques

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WHITE WHALE, *DELPHINAPTERUS LEUCAS*

by

Thomas G. Smith[1]

and

Michael O. Hammill[2]

[1] Arctic Biological Station of the
Institut Maurice-Lamontagne
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
555 Boul. St. Pierre
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec
H9X 3R4

[2] Institut Maurice-Lamontagne
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
850, Route de la Mer
C.P. 1000
Mont-Joli, Québec
G5H 3Z4

90-05914/

Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1990

Cat. No. Fs 97-4/2060E ISSN 0706-6473

Correct citation for this publication is:

Smith, Thomas G. and Michael O. Hammill. 1990. A Bibliography of the White Whale, *Delphinapterus leucas*. Can. MS Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2060: ii + 45 p.

INTRODUCTION

Belugas or white whales, *Delphinapterus leucas*, are one of three whale species specifically adapted to life in the arctic oceans. The beluga remains the most numerous and widespread of the three species. In some situations such as during their occupation of estuaries, they are highly visible and in many ways vulnerable to habitat disruption, disturbance from man-related activities and to overharvesting by commercial or subsistence hunting.

In recent years belugas in the southern extremity of their range, those in the St. Lawrence River, have become a focal point for concerns about the harmful effects of industrial pollution and other anthropogenic factors on marine mammals. The comparatively pristine arctic regions are not devoid of problems either. In the Canadian arctic, of the six sub-populations still hunted by the Inuit two are listed as endangered and one other as threatened.

These concerns and the heightened research activity on the species prompted us to organize a workshop of the beluga which was held in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec in April 1989. This bibliography was initiated as a background paper to that meeting and supplemented with the additions from the participants. A compendium of papers on the beluga, to be published as a Bulletin of the Canadian Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, will follow as the main output of this effort.

We wish to thank all of those who have added to the reference list and hope that this bibliography will prove useful to those working on belugas.

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